

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 1, line 1, please insert --non-naturally occurring—before “mutant”.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

a
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2. (amended) The mutant *C. fetus* strain of claim 1, wherein the insertion of said DNA cassette results in alteration of a *sapA* homolog [is altered].

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

a
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4. (amended) The mutant *C. fetus* strain of claim 1, wherein the expression of said DNA cassette results in a [the encoded] S-layer protein that represents a chimera between the native S-layer protein and the [peptide] heterologous protein encoded by [the] said DNA cassette.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

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5. (amended) The mutant *C. fetus* strain of claim 1, wherein said DNA cassette encodes immunogens of a pathogen, wherein said pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *E. coli* 0157:H7, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) and animal pathogens.